IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving an outgoing audio signal; and

b) coupling the audio signal to a subscriber line through a plurality of transistors coupled in a common base configuration~~, wherein the common base configuration provides d.c. isolation from the subscriber line for a source of the audio signal.~~ ; and

c) receiving linefeed driver control signals for controlling battery feed to the subscriber line, wherein the audio signal and the linefeed driver control signals are received as currents on the same signal lines.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 1 wherein the plurality of transistors comprises bipolar junction transistors.

4. (CANCELED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method comprising the steps of:

a) receiving linefeed driver control signals and outgoing audio signals as currents on a same plurality of signal lines; and

b) providing the outgoing audio signals to a subscriber line through a common base isolation stage~~, wherein the common base isolation stage provides d.c. isolation for a source of the audio signals~~.

6. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of claim 5 further comprising the step of:

c) controlling a battery feed to a tip node and a ring node of the subscriber line in accordance with the linefeed driver control signals.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method of claim 5 wherein the common base isolation stage comprises a plurality of bipolar junction transistors coupled in a common base configuration.

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A subscriber line interface circuit apparatus, comprising:

a first circuit for coupling a received outgoing audio signal to a subscriber line, wherein the first circuit couples the received outgoing audio signal to the subscriber line through a common base isolation stage, ~~wherein the common base isolation stage provides d.c. isolation from the subscriber line for a source of the audio signal~~ wherein the first circuit controls battery feed to the subscriber line in accordance with received linefeed driver control signals, wherein the linefeed driver control signals and the outgoing audio signal are received as currents on the same signal lines.

10. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first circuit comprises a plurality of bipolar junction transistors coupled in a common base configuration.

11. (CANCELED)

12. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first circuit comprises:

a tip control circuit, wherein the tip control circuit increases a tip node voltage in response to a first tip control signal, wherein the tip control circuit decreases a tip node voltage in response to a second tip control signal; and

a ring control circuit wherein the ring control circuit increases a ring node voltage in response to a first ring control signal, wherein the ring control circuit decreases a ring node voltage in response to a second ring control signal.

13. (ORIGINAL) The linefeed driver of claim 12 wherein the tip control circuit comprises:

a first transistor of a first type having an emitter coupled to receive the first tip control signal;

a second transistor of the first type having an emitter coupled to receive the second tip control signal, wherein a base of each of the first and second transistors is coupled to a first node as a signal ground;

a third transistor of a second type having a collector coupled to a collector of the first transistor and an emitter coupled to a second node;

a resistor having a first end coupled to the second node, a second end of the resistor coupled to a base of the third transistor and a collector of the second transistor.

14. (ORIGINAL) The subscriber line linefeed driver of claim 13 wherein the first type is a PNP bipolar junction transistor, wherein the second type is an NPN bipolar junction transistor.

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A subscriber line interface circuit apparatus, comprising:

a signal processor providing an outgoing audio signal; and

a linefeed driver coupled to receive the outgoing audio signal and at least one linefeed driver control signal as currents on the same signal line, wherein the linefeed driver couples the received outgoing audio signal to a subscriber line through a common base isolation stage, wherein the linefeed driver provides battery feed to the subscriber line in accordance with the linefeed driver control signal. ~~wherein the common base isolation stage provides d.c. isolation from the subscriber line for the signal processor.~~

16. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the common base isolation stage comprises a plurality of bipolar junction transistors coupled in a common base configuration.

17. (CANCELED)

18. (ORIGINAL) The linefeed driver of claim 15 wherein the linefeed driver comprises:

a tip control circuit, wherein the tip control circuit increases a tip node voltage in response to a first tip control signal, wherein the tip control circuit decreases a tip node voltage in response to a second tip control signal; and

a ring control circuit wherein the ring control circuit increases a ring node voltage in response to a first ring control signal, wherein the ring control circuit decreases a ring node voltage in response to a second ring control signal, wherein the signal processor provides the first and second tip control signals and the first and second ring control signals.

19. (ORIGINAL) The linefeed driver of claim 18 wherein the tip control circuit comprises:

a first transistor of a first type having an emitter coupled to receive the first tip control signal;

a second transistor of the first type having an emitter coupled to receive the second tip control signal, wherein a base of each of the first and second transistors is coupled to a first node as a signal ground;

a third transistor of a second type having a collector coupled to a collector of the first transistor and an emitter coupled to a second node; and

a resistor having a first end coupled to the second node, a second end of the resistor coupled to a base of the third transistor and a collector of the second transistor.

20. (ORIGINAL) The linefeed driver of claim 19 wherein the first type is a PNP bipolar junction transistor, wherein the second type is an NPN bipolar junction transistor.